

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025426
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:TNILES:HM
APPROVED BY IO:RLBARRY
AF/S:DKPETTERSON
S/S:TGMARTIN

-----104599 311959Z /46

O 311924Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025426

EXDIS, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY, VALLETTA FOR ANDREW YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
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PAGE 02 STATE 025426

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF JANUARY 31

REF: USUN 0301

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT INCLUSION OF REFERENCE IN PRO-
POSAL TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMILITARIZED ZONE ALONG

ANGOLA/NAMIBIA FRONTIER WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT REACHING AGREEMENT ON PRECISE FORMULATION AT THIS LATE HOUR COULD PROVE DIFFICULT AND MIGHT DELAY TRANSMISSION OF PROPOSAL TO VARIOUS PARTIES. WE SHARE CONCERN OVER SWAPO'S POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF THIS LANGUAGE. MOREOVER, SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NAMIBIA/ ANGOLA FRONTIER COULD RESULT IN SWAPO DEMANDS FOR SIMILAR DEMILITARIZED ZONE ALONG NAMIBIA/SOUTH AFRICA FRONTIER. QUESTION OF ARRANGEMENTS TO INSURE SECURITY OF NAMIBIAN BORDERS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING PROXIMITY TALKS, AND DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT COULD BE APPROPRIATELY DISCUSSED DURING DELIVERY OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL IN LUANDA (SEE BELOW).

2. IN VIEW CONTINUING OPPOSITION WITHIN CONTACT GROUP TO OUR POSITION THAT CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL BE PUBLISHED, DEPARTMENT CAN GO ALONG WITH VIEWS OF OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS THAT PROPOSAL BE GIVEN WIDE DISTRIBUTION AS DISCUSSED PARA 2 REFTEL, BUT THAT FORMAL PUBLICATION BE AVOIDED. MISSION SHOULD MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE MAY RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT SUBSEQUENTLY IF DAMAGING LEAKS BY SWAPO, SOUTH AFRICA OR OTHERS OCCUR.

3. TIMING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PROPOSAL TO VARIOUS PARTIES DISCUSSED PARA 3 REFTEL IS ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT. WE ALSO AGREE WITH CONTACT GROUP'S DECISION TO DELAY GIVING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 025426

PROPOSAL TO SWAPO UNTIL CONCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE FEBRUARY 2.

4. AS REGARDS TRANSMISSION OF PROPOSAL TO ANGOLANS, WHILE WE WOULD NOT WISH TO OBJECT TO PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR THABAULT, WE SHARE MISSION'S VIEW THAT THIS IMPORTANT TASK SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO FRENCH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONTACT GROUP WAS FAVORABLY INCLINED TO PROPOSAL THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF LAGOS EMBASSIES, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR EASUM, MAKE TRIP TO LUANDA TO DELIVER PROPOSAL, AND THIS WOULD BE DEPARTMENT'S PREFERRED VARIANT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DMZ, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE025426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TNILES:HM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780046-0675
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978012/aaaaabdr.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 913c09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 301
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3709251
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF JANUARY 31
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/913c09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014